

REMARKS

This Reply is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed 01 December 2006. Claims 26, 28-43 and 45-50 are currently pending in this Application, with claim 37 being cancelled above. Claim 26 has been amended. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 42, 43, 45-50, 32 and 34-37.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 26, 28-31, 33, and 38-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent No. EP249746 to Walter ("Walter" hereinafter). In reply, Applicants herein amend claim 26 to recite in part:

"wherein the at least one transmitting element and/or the at least one receiving element are arranged at the edge of the optical guide spaced from the light coupling element."

This new limitation is taken from previous claim 37, which was indicated by the Examiner to include allowable subject matter, and has herein been canceled. With the inclusion of this allowable subject matter, Walter no longer teaches every element of Applicants' claim 26, or claims 28-31, 33, and 38-41 that depend therefrom. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that for at least this reason, Applicants' claims 26, 28-31, 33, and 38-41 are not anticipated by Walter.

As the rest of the pending claims 42, 43, and 45-50 have been indicated as allowed, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the rejections are herein overcome. No new matter is added by way of the present Amendments or Remarks, as support is found throughout the original filed specification, claims, and drawings. Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.


If the Examiner has any questions regarding the instantly submitted response, Applicants' attorney respectfully requests the courtesy of a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Applicants hereby petition under 35 C.F.R. §§1.136 for any extension of time necessary for entry and consideration of this response.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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